Export-Oriented Unit for Labour Management

1591. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to amend labour laws in view of globalisation and liberalisation to complete with the international producers; and

(b) whether there are any changes being planned for export-oreiented units for labour management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Review/updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendments/fresh legislations are made depending on the results of the reveiw. The Government have recently set up the Second National Commission on Labour which would comprehensively review labour laws including those relating to export oriented units. In developing the frame work for its recommendations the Commission will take into account the emerging economic environment involving rapid technolgical changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timing and conditions of work in industry, trade and services, globalisation of economy, liberalisation of trade and industry and emphasis on international competitiveness, and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands.

Largest Trade Union

†1592. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the trade union in the country having largest number of workers and the trade unions at first, second and third position in terms of number of workers; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to bring change in the criteria of providing recognition to Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The last verification of the membership of the unions affiliated to Central Trade Union Organisations (CTUOs) with the date of reckoning as 31.12.89 was completed in the year 1996. As per the results declared

by the Ministry of Labour, the following are three Central Trade Union Organisations which are first, second and third according to their membership strength:

1. Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (B.M.S.)
2. Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)
3. Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU).

(b) As per the procedure for verification, the Central Trade Union Organisations having verified membership of at least 5 lakh and spread over at least 4 states and 4 industries (which may include Agriculture and Rural Sector) were to be recognised by the Government as Central Trade Union Organisations. No change has been done so far in the criteria for recognition of Central Trade Union Organisations.

Unskilled Labourers

†1593. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise number of unskilled labourers in the country alongwith the action being taken by Government for fixation of their proper remuneration; and

(b) whether any action is being proposed to provide proper remuneration to the agricultural labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The information on the State-wise number of unskilled labourers is not available. However, according to a Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1993-94 on Employment and Unemployment, the estimated number of persons who do not possess skill is 536.6 million in rural sector and 163.1 million in urban sector. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages for unskilled labour in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. Accordingly, the minimum wages are fixed/revised by the appropriate Governments from time to time.

(b) Agriculture is one of the schedule employments falling both under Central and State Governments for which also minimum wages

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.